

Utah State UNIVERSITY

UTAH AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Office of the Director
4810 Old Main Hill
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October 27, 2005

Mike Johanns,
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue
S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

It was my pleasure to meet you during the listening session you held at the fair grounds in Salt Lake City, Utah. Thank you for spending the time to get input from our Utah farmers and ranchers.

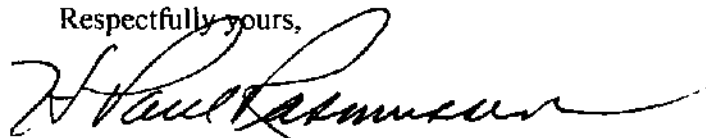
During the break I talked to you about the document I had written concerning the elimination of Formula Funds in the current President's budget. This document has served as a foundation for many who have talked or written about the impact of such action. You suggested that I send a copy to you. I enclose a copy for your consideration.

Successful agriculture is a basis upon which almost all countries establish themselves! The United States is a classical model. When people are hungry they are almost impossible to lead, when their stomachs are full their minds can be drawn to other critical issues. Research and education in agriculture have gained their strength from investing through formula funds. These funds serve to generate and maintain the underpinnings and infrastructure that allow for competitive research to answer the questions that threaten the stability of our food supply or allow our farmers and ranchers to remain competitive in a world market.

I urge you to read the document and help the small states remain a part of the United States research and education agricultural family. Competitive grants have their place but it cannot be done without formula funds. Much research that uses formula funds is directed at emergencies, is long term and is very expensive. Competitive grants are not set up to address any of those three items. Competitive grants cannot be used to maintain infrastructure that is required for scientists to be successful when they submit grants.

Thank you for your listening ear and for your consideration of my concerns.

Respectfully yours,



H. Paul Rasmussen
Director, Utah Agricultural Experiment Station

Attachment